

MAKING CAREER CHOICES

FACT SHEETS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE
THE RIGHT CAREER AND STUDY PATH



Animal Care

Veterinary Nurse, Animal Attendant, Animal Technician, Pet Groomer, Kennel Hand

Industry Description

Practitioners in this industry will be required to work in close proximity to animals providing care and treatment services. This could include speaking with clients about their animals, assisting veterinarians with emergency and critical care procedures to animals, performing grooming services and carrying out administrative and retail duties.

Below are some of the particularly demanding requirements. Reasonable Adjustment may apply for individuals with specific support needs in industry training. The learner should have:

- the ability to handle and control objects, tools and equipment (manual dexterity)
- tolerance for animal hair, fur, feathers, dust, chemicals, odours and other contaminants
- the ability to understand and carry out verbal instructions
- the ability to read and understand written materials such as charts and labels
- the ability to work accurately and within time constraints (efficiency)
- the ability to deal with clients and give full attention, taking time to understand and ask questions as appropriate (active listening)
- the ability to see details at close range (near vision)
- the ability to keep your hand and arm steady
- tolerance for heavy lifting, carrying and standing for long periods of time
- the ability to remain calm in stressful situations such as emergencies.

Below are some of the important personal abilities that are required. The learner should have:

- an interest in animals and their welfare
- the ability to make accurate observations
- the ability to tolerate animal odours, blood and body fluids
- the ability to tolerate noisy work environments
- confidence and patience in handling animals.

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- the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to follow detailed work instructions
- good communication and organisational skills.

Workplace Health and Safety

All practitioners must understand their workplace health and safety obligations and safety requirements under the:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which imposes obligations on people at workplaces to ensure workplace health and safety.
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* that describes what must be done to prevent or control certain hazards which cause injury, illness or death.
- *Codes of Practice*, which are designed to give practical advice about ways to manage exposure to risks common to industry.

All practitioners must be able to participate in Risk Assessments, Incident Reports and Hazard Identification.

A more specific workplace health and safety requirement for animal care practitioners is not having allergies aggravated by animal hair, fur, feathers and dust.

Legislative or licensing issues

All practitioners must meet the qualification requirements set by industry standards.

Resources and further information

For more information on duties, tasks and career and labour market information relating to Animal Care, please refer to <http://joboutlook.gov.au>.

Industry information/professional associations

Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia: www.vnca.asn.au

Australian Veterinary Association: www.ava.com.au

Pet Industry Association: www.piaa.net.au

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Australia:
www.rspca.org.au

Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animals Association (ANZLAA): www.anzlaa.org.au

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO): www.csiro.au

For career resources to help explore and plan careers, visit www.myfuture.edu.au.

This is intended to be used as a tool for career research, in conjunction with other resources. For specific course information, please refer to the TAFE Queensland website www.tafeqld.edu.au or ring 1300 308 233.



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